

boy and his welfare are the major interest of the father. In Letter CXXXIV, Chesterfield states his great objective, "My object is to have you fit to live; which, if you are not, I do not desire that you should live at all;"¹ in Letter CIX, he writes his fundamental desire, "I ask nothing of you but what is entirely in your own power; to be an honest, a learned, and a well-bred man. As for the first, I cannot, I will not doubt it; I think you know already the infamy; the horrors, and the misfortunes that always attend a dishonest and dishonorable man. Common sense points out civility, and observation teaches you the manner of it, which makes it good-breeding;"² in Letter CXII, he gives the purpose of his advice and correspondence, "Do not think that I mean to dictate as a parent; I only mean to advise as a friend, and an indulgent one, too, and do not apprehend that I mean to check your pleasures, of which, on the contrary, I only desire to be the guide, not the censor. Let my experience supply your want of it, and clear your way, in the progress of your youth of those thorns and briars which scratched and disfigured me in the course of mine;"³ in Letter CL, "to unite in you all the knowledge of a scholar with the manners of a courtier; and to join, what is seldom joined by any of my countrymen, books and the world. You will always take care to keep the best company in the place where you are, which is the only use of traveling; and the pleasures of a gentleman are only to be found in the best company; for that riot which low company, most

1. Lord Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, Letter CXXXIV, p 136.

2. op. cit., Letter CIX, p 105.

3. op. cit., Letter CXII, pp 108 f.